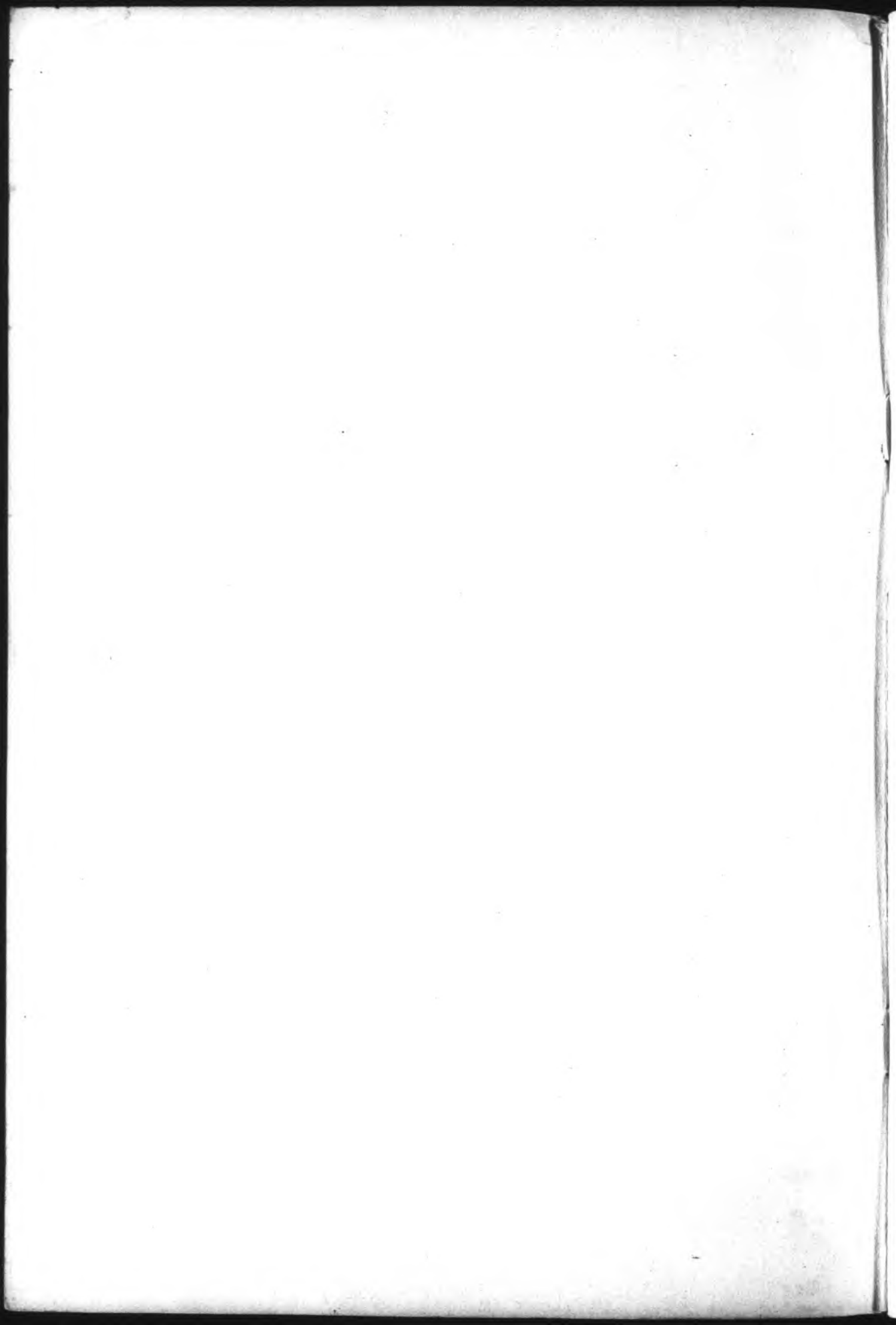




Florida Commission of
GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH

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BIENNIAL REPORT
for Period Ending December 31, 1938

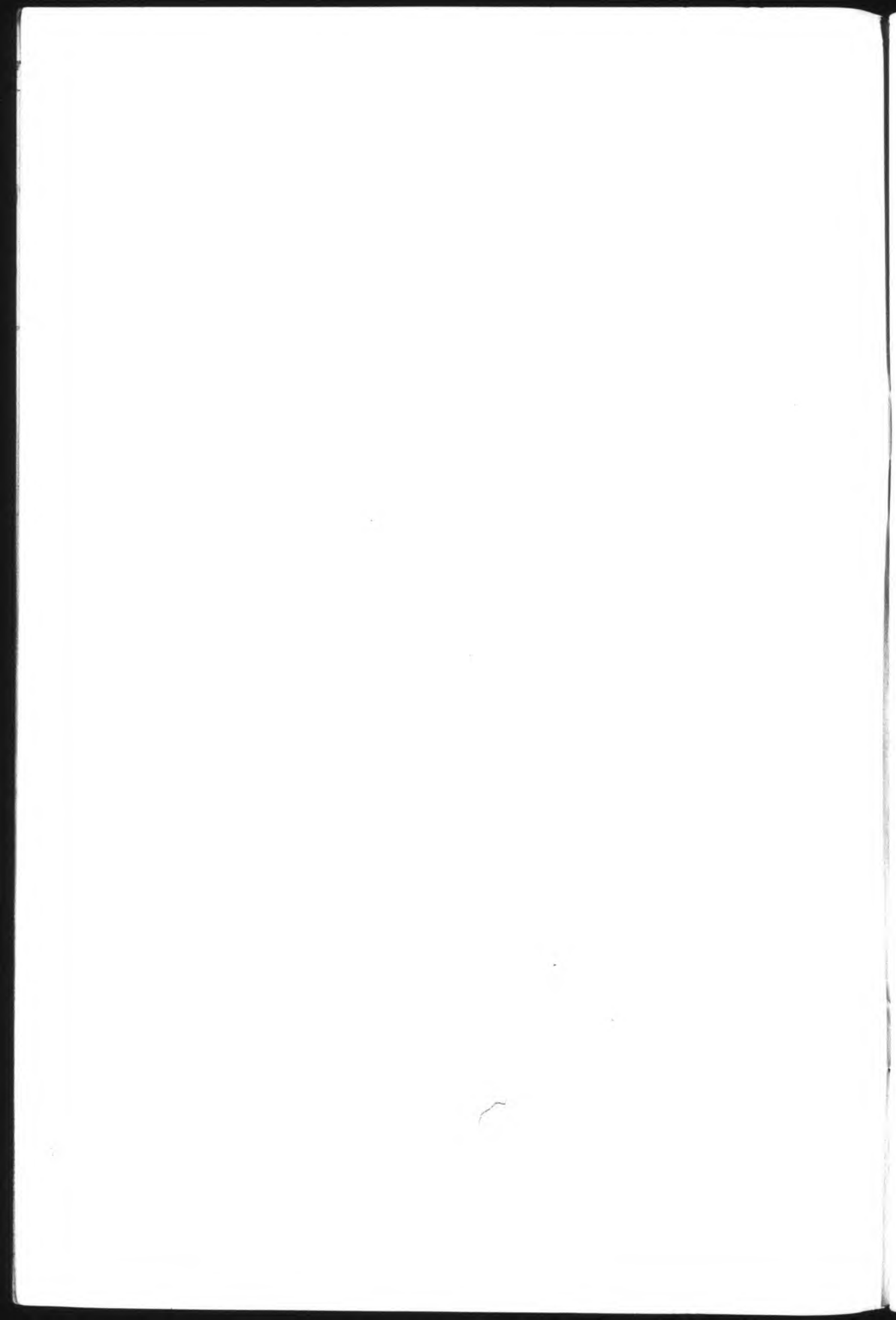




Biennial Report
COMMISSION OF GAME AND
FRESH WATER FISH
of the
STATE OF FLORIDA
BIENNIUM ENDING
December 31, 1938



I. N. KENNEDY
Executive Secretary
Tallahassee, Florida



SUBMITTING REPORT

Tallahassee, Florida,

March 15, 1939.

Dr. Fred G. Garner, Chairman,
Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish,
State of Florida.

Sir:

I am submitting herewith the report of the work of the State Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish, for the conservation of Florida's wildlife resources, during the biennium closing December 31st, 1938.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. N. Kennedy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "K".

Executive Secretary.

FLORIDA

COMMISSION OF GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH

FRED G. GARNER, 1st Congressional District,
Winter Haven

THOMPSON S. BAKER, 2nd Congressional District,
Jacksonville

W. LAMAR GAMMON, 3rd Congressional District,
Marianna

HERBERT L. SCHALLER, 4th Congressional District,
Miami

JOHN S. CLARDY, 5th Congressional District,
Ocala

FRED G. GARNER, Chairman
I. N. KENNEDY, Executive Secretary
Executive Office, State Capitol,
Tallahassee

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Tallahassee, Florida,
March 15, 1939.

To His Excellency,
Fred Preston Cone,
Governor of the State of Florida.

Sir:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith the biennial report of work that has been done for the conservation of Florida's wildlife resources, as directed by the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish during the period closing December 31st, 1938.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Fred L. Garner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Fred" and last name "Garner" clearly legible.

Chairman of the Commission.



Florida—America's Greatest Black Bass Fishing Grounds.

INTRODUCTION

Florida as an outdoor State needs no introduction. With her 30,000 lakes and numberless streams together with her vast woodlands to offer as refuge or habitats of both waters and woods, she is known the world over. Nature in the beginning endowed us with an abundant supply of resources from her overflowing storehouse. As is expected, man's habitation of the land and the development which followed has made a vast difference. The task before us at this time is one of working out a program of wildlife conservation which will keep step with economic development. Much progress has been made, but the greater portion of the work still remains to be done if we are to reach that common point where development and the conservation of natural resources work hand in hand each aiding the other.

CONSERVATION OF FLORIDA'S NATIVE WILDLIFE

The organization for wildlife conservation work in Florida might be likened to that under which big corporations maintaining wholesale and retail divisions operate. The native wildlife of the state is the capital stock of the business. The Legislature, the body chosen by the electorate of the State, determines policies under which the work is to be developed. The Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish formulates and directs the work in harmony with these policies. It is thus the legislative and administrative branches of the government, dealing with the State as a whole, operates as the wholesale division of the business of wildlife conservation in Florida.

The retail branch of wildlife conservation work, though not as definitely organized as the wholesale, renders a service without which the work can make no progress. This division consists of individual citizens, social and civic organizations, press, radio, schools, clubs and county and municipal government.

Work in the conservation field as carried on by the State and cooperating agencies through the calendar years of 1937 and 1938 is briefly outlined in this report.

FINANCES

Work of the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish is financed by the administration of the laws affecting birds, mammals and fresh water fish, and regulating hunting, fishing, trapping. The amount of revenue available from the sale of

licenses under these laws limits to some extent the scope and progress of the work.

Funds produced from such sources during the two fiscal years closing respectively June 30, 1937 and June 30, 1938, were:

| 1936-37 | 1937-38 |
|--------------|--------------|
| \$192,741.80 | \$210,181.07 |

A detailed financial statement showing receipts and disbursements for these two fiscal years is given on pages 44 through 47. A similar statement covering receipts and disbursements July 1, 1938 through December 31, 1938, the first six months of the fiscal year which opens July 1, 1938, is added as a matter of information. It will be found on pages 48 and 49.

DIVISION OF FLORIDA'S WILDLIFE DOLLAR

The following diagram shows the general division of funds for administration and the various lines of work carried on under the direction of the Commission during the two years of the biennium ended June 30, 1938.



Fiscal Year
1936 - 37



Fiscal Year
1937 - 38

| | July 1, 1936, to June 30, 1937 | % of Yearly Total | July 1, 1937, to June 30, 1938 | % of Yearly Total |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Administration, Salaries and Travel | \$ 10,162.61 | 6% | \$ 11,932.08 | 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ % |
| Office and Administrative Ex- penses | 4,908.33 | 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ % | 5,244.77 | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ % |
| Education | 3,023.41 | 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ % | 4,184.46 | 2% |
| Enforcement | 144,601.07 | 80 $\frac{1}{4}$ % | 175,545.75 | 82 $\frac{1}{4}$ % |
| Field Equipment | 2,204.08 | 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ % | 3,929.78 | 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ % |
| Game Propagation | 5,536.20 | 3% | 3,718.36 | 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ % |
| Fish Hatcheries | 8,822.29 | 5% | 8,461.04 | 4% |
| TOTALS | \$179,257.99 | 100% | \$213,016.24 | 100% |

SOURCES OF REVENUE DURING BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 1938

CLASSIFIED LIST OF LICENSES SOLD BY COUNTY JUDGES

| | PRICE | FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30th, 1937 | | FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30th, 1938 | |
|--|--------|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| | | No. Issued | Amount | No. Issued | Amount |
| FISHING LICENSES | | | | | |
| Series A—Resident State | \$2.00 | 10,348 | \$20,696.00 | 13,190 | \$26,380.00 |
| Series B—Non-Resident State | 5.00 | 4,388 | 21,940.00 | 4,955 | 24,775.00 |
| Series C—Non-Resident 3-Day Trip | 1.50 | 6,254 | 9,381.00 | 8,588 | 12,882.00 |
| Series D—Special Non-Resident Walton County | 3.00 | 133 | 399.00 | 16 | 48.00 |
| Series E—Special Non-Resident Washington County | 25.00 | 6 | 150.00 | 1 | 25.00 |
| TOTAL | | 21,129 | \$52,566.00 | 26,750 | \$64,110.00 |
| HUNTING LICENSES | | | | | |
| Series I—Resident County | 1.00 | 35,205 | \$35,050.00 | 37,835 | \$37,835.00 |
| Series J—Resident County, Other than Home | 3.00 | 554 | 1,662.00 | 494 | 1,482.00 |
| Series K—Resident State | 5.00 | 15,044 | 75,220.00 | 16,565 | 82,825.00 |
| Series L—Non-Resident | 25.00 | 154 | 3,850.00 | 157 | 3,925.00 |
| Series M—Non-Resident 10- Day Trip | 10.00 | 529 | 5,290.00 | 626 | 6,260.00 |
| Series M-1—Non-Resident 3,000 Acre Owner | 10.00 | 17 | 170.00 | 14 | 140.00 |
| Alien Licenses | 50.00 | | | 2 | 100.00 |
| TOTAL | | 51,503 | \$121,397.00 | 55,693 | \$132,567.00 |
| TRAPPING LICENSES | | | | | |
| Series N—Resident | \$3.00 | 1,969 | \$ 5,907.00 | 1,547 | \$ 4,611.00 |
| Series O—Non-Resident County | 25.00 | 4 | 100.00 | 3 | 75.00 |
| Series P—Resident State | 25.00 | 14 | 350.00 | 11 | 275.00 |
| Series Q—Resident Other than Home County | 10.00 | 53 | 530.00 | 29 | 290.00 |
| TOTAL | | 2,040 | \$ 6,887.00 | 1,590 | \$ 5,281.00 |
| TOTAL SALES BY COUNTY JUDGES | | | | | |
| | | 74,672 | \$180,810.00 | 84,033 | \$201,958.00 |

TAKING STOCK

All business at stated periods pauses to take stock of what is on hand and balance its books; to check the soundness of policies upon which programs of work are based and formulate plans for the future. Let us then consider our capital stock—the present status of the wildlife with which we must work in carrying on our conservation program.

DEER

The Federal Government has just released a report of deer and other big game in America. Florida is accredited with 25,000 deer. A recent close check by counties of the deer population of Florida made by the field force of the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish show the number of deer as 16,908. It is believed that this is approximately correct.

Breaking this number down further we find that Manatee, Suwannee, Escambia and Alachua Counties report no deer; Hardee County, once supporting a good deer population reports two, these having been placed in the State Breeding Grounds by the Commission in an effort to rebuild the supply; Holmes and Washington Counties have but four deer each; ten counties report fifteen or less; twenty-three counties report having fifty or less; twenty-nine counties report less than a hundred.

Dixie, Okaloosa and Marion Counties report 1,500 each. These, with Collier County are the best stocked counties in the State. The facts shown by the check just made on the deer population of Florida gives cause for great concern. This State has a range which would support approximately 2,000,000 deer but the necessary breeding stock is lacking.

Were breeding stock of deer on the market and funds available for purchase, restocking might be accomplished by this means. Neither are to be had. If our deer population for the future is to be rebuilt commensurate with the range at hand greater protection must be given. This can be accomplished by a shortened season and a reduced bag together with complete protection for the doe deer and a greater protection for the immature buck.

In considering further protection for our present supply of deer and a program for rebuilding this deer population, Florida is confronted with another problem of great concern.

The State Live Stock Sanitary Board, in its tick eradication program, has reported that the cattle fever tick in this State can not be eradicated due to the fact that deer in the area were infested with the fever tick. A claim was made that it was necessary to reduce the number of deer in these areas in order for tick eradication work to be carried to a successful conclusion.

With this situation in mind, the 1937 Legislature passed certain local laws permitting the slaughter of deer by the Live Stock Sanitary Board in sections of Glades, Highlands, Osceola and Orange Counties. The laws affecting these counties granted to the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish the right to have a representative present when the deer were removed by slaughter or otherwise, and to keep a record of deer killed.

The record shows a total of 647 deer killed. This together with the 363 previously reported by the Live Stock Sanitary Board as having been killed, brings the total to 1010.

There is no inclination on the part of the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish to impede the eradication of ticks in Florida. In view of the great depletion of the supply of deer in Florida woods it would seem that the necessity for continuing this slaughter of deer should be established beyond a doubt before this program is continued or any enlargement of the program is agreed to.

WHAT HOPE FOR DEER IN FLORIDA

Thirty-five years ago the deer of Pennsylvania had been shot down to an estimated 50. Today the Federal Government credits the State with 750,000 deer. The State brought from other states a limited number of deer for breeding stock. Protection through inviolate refuges, abundant browse and cover from second growth on cut-over lands, a hunting season of but a few days, a season's bag of one buck with branched antlers, and no dogs allowed for hunting deer made possible this great increase. For several years the annual kill in Pennsylvania has numbered from 25,000 to 40,000 deer.

Florida has a woodland that could support a million deer, and as seed stock a herd of 16,908. This is far in excess of that with which Pennsylvania rebuilt. When first mated a young doe will generally give birth to a single fawn, after that, under wise management, there will often be two. Were the season

shortened to a few days, bag reduced to one buck deer, dogs eliminated and the law prohibiting the killing of doe deer made enforceable, the future of deer in Florida would be assured. Fairly dealt with they could be brought back in numbers in Florida before many years had passed. What Pennsylvania has done Florida can do.

POPULATION CURVE IN DEER UNDER DIFFERING CONDITIONS

In the light of present knowledge of wildlife habits and handling of different species of game, the hope for the future of Florida's herd of deer rests in the wise management of the present herd.

Aldo Leopold, well known authority on game management, in his work entitled "Game Management" (1933), offers a striking graph showing the sensitivity of population curve in deer. He charts year by year, through periods of ten years, the assumed increase from twenty-four pairs of mature deer where the herd exists under varying conditions.

Except for figures shown in Section 1, which are based on actual increases in the herd as known in deer country where no hunting was allowed, it is general knowledge of the fluctuation of the deer population under varying conditions which lies back of the assumed increases in population shown in Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5. In interpreting this chart in terms of Florida the deer population of 16,000 or 8,000 pairs is used as the basic herd. The increases shown are proportionate to those given for twenty-four pairs in the chart offered by Mr. Leopold. While Mr. Leopold does not suggest the length of the hunting season allowed in Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5, he limits the deer taken to a certain proportion of the herd. This might occur in long season or a short one.

Due to the killing of spike-bucks in Florida there is probably a scarcity of mature bucks in the Florida herd. To allow for the effect of this or other unfavorable factors that might affect increases in the herd in the State an estimate of the increase in the herd, based on 50% of increases shown by Mr Leopold is added.

TEN YEAR PERIOD RECORD WITH TWENTY-FOUR PAIR OF DEER

No. 1. Following a ten year closed period with no removal from the herd of bucks or does, and does bearing at the rate of 100%, the herd would number 2,200 at the end of the period. Forecast of increase is based on records of herd management in good deer territory.

No. 2. After a closed season of four years, followed by six years of hunting during which $\frac{1}{2}$ of the bucks are removed yearly, and doe deer protected and bearing at the rate of 100%, the herd will number 1,750.

No. 3. With no closed season $\frac{1}{2}$ does and $\frac{1}{2}$ bucks taken each year, remaining does bearing at the rate of 100%, at the end of ten years herd will number 90.

No. 4. A closed season for four years, at the end of which herd would number 200. Followed by six years during which $\frac{1}{4}$ of bucks and $\frac{1}{8}$ of does and yearlings and $\frac{1}{2}$ fawns are killed annually. (This represents hunting where taking of bucks only, including spike-bucks, is legal, and $\frac{1}{8}$ of does and yearlings and $\frac{1}{2}$ fawns are illegally killed.) If does bear at the rate of 100% the herd would number 390 at the end of ten years. This is a gain of 190 during six years through which the herd was hunted.

No. 5. Existing under same conditions as in No. 4, closed for four years and open six, except that after the fifth year $\frac{1}{2}$ of the does are barren, the herd at the end of ten years would number slightly less than at the end of the four year closed season when they numbered 195.

As applied to Florida with her herd of 16,000 or 8,000 pairs, based on Mr. Leopold's chart, we would find the following:

No. 1. Under closed season for ten years the herd would increase to 733,333.

No. 2. With a closed season of four years, followed by an open season of six years during which $\frac{1}{2}$ of mature bucks in the herd were taken each year, and does bearing at the rate of 100%, the total herd would number 292,666.

No. 3. With a fixed open season during the entire ten years when $\frac{1}{2}$ does and $\frac{1}{2}$ bucks are taken annually and the remaining does bearing at the rate of 100%, the herd at the end of the period will number 30,000. It might be noted that conditions

in Florida today are such that even this slight increase through a period of ten years cannot be expected. Florida's herd of 16,000 deer is steadily declining.

No. 4. A closed season of four years, at the end of which the herd would number 66,666, followed by a period of six years during which $\frac{1}{4}$ of the bucks, $\frac{1}{8}$ of the does and yearlings and $\frac{1}{2}$ of the fawns are killed yearly. This represents hunting where taking of bucks only, including spike-bucks is legal and allows for some law violations. If doe deer bear at the rate of 100% the herd at the end of ten years would number 66,666.

No. 5. Were the herd developed under conditions cited in the paragraph above, except that after the fifth year 50% of the does were barren, at the end of the first four years during which the area had been closed, it would number 66,666. At the end of the following six years, which would close the ten year period, the herd would have dropped to 65,000.

The rapid decline in the deer herd in Florida in the recent years point to the fact that conditions under which deer now exist are less favorable than those given in Sections 4 and 5. Unless immediate steps are taken to halt this decline, practical extinction is inevitable.

The Florida Wildlife Federation and the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish urge that the Florida law prohibiting the killing of doe deer be amended to require a hunter to leave marks of sex identification upon the deer until the carcass has been checked by a Conservation Officer.

WILD TURKEY

Florida's report on wild turkey is not much more encouraging than that on deer. The State is one of the few in which the choice wild bronze turkey is still found in any numbers, but its numbers have been greatly depleted.

When the census was made by counties of deer in Florida, it was also made of turkeys and flocks of turkeys. The total in the State was 12,286 with an estimate of a possible 1,216 flocks. In the census just made five counties reported no turkeys and eight counties failed to give the number of flocks within their areas. This is a vast drop in the supply of wild turkey when compared with their abundance of fifteen years ago.

To supply the demand of hunters for turkeys to shoot, Florida in very recent years has purchased half-wild stock to place in

breeding grounds for propagation purposes. Increase from this breeding stock not only supplied birds for hunting but has lifted a part of the pressure of guns from the native stock. It may be possible in time to build flocks of turkeys of these half-breeds in sufficient numbers in Florida to make turkey hunting what it once was in the State, but it will be at the cost of the priceless pure bronze stock which the State holds as a prized possession.

What policy is to be followed in this matter must be definitely decided at an early date—are we to increase our supply by restocking or are we to give more protection to the bronze stock which we now have, thus permitting nature to restock in its own way.

The Florida Wildlife Federation and the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish recommend that the season on wild turkey close December 31st as does the season on deer.

QUAIL

Though hunted more extensively than turkey and deer in Florida, quail were found in great abundance throughout the State as recently as twenty-five years ago. While the amount of food and cover will determine abundance where there is sufficient seed stock, it is possible to reduce seed stock of quail in any area to that extent that the increase from season to season is not commensurate with the carrying capacity of the land. A check of the steady decline in Florida's quail supply over a period of twenty-five years will sustain this fact. Original abundance twenty-five years ago made them generally available for the home table throughout the State, and a stimulus to hunting for those who found their pleasure afield. Abundance was such that a day in the field anywhere in Florida with good dogs produced fifteen coveys of these choice birds, and it was not unusual to claim an excess above this of from five to ten coveys.

Fifteen years ago ten or twelve coveys a day was the average with a bag limit of twenty birds accounted a practical certainty. Ten years ago ten coveys was looked upon as a good find, six or seven as average and a bag limit of fifteen birds good luck. Today except in very spotted areas or on private preserves men must content themselves with four or five coveys and the bag limit of fifteen, when secured, has made the local press as news.

While seasonal conditions of breeding and rearing time affect the abundance of a year, and in some areas the carrying capa-



Conservation Officer Releasing
Bob-White Quail.

city of land is less, there has been no change in carrying capacity consistent with the steady decline in the supply of quail and no unfavorable seasons continued through many years to account for steady decline, generally accepted to mean that decline is due to insufficient seed stock, the result of overshooting. Florida's hunting season, November 20th to February 15th—87 days with a day's bag of 15 and possession of 30, a season's limit of 200 and 60,000 hunters in the field would uphold this belief.

The number of quail taken in Florida annually by hunters, as tabulated from the report of game killed in the previous season which hunters are required to file when purchasing hunting license, is appalling. This "game census," never complete as it is not universally required of hunters, is extremely conservative. How great a toll is taken in a year is shown in the report from the following four counties:

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| Alachua | 37,700 |
| Bradford | 6,665 |
| Citrus | 9,288 |
| Columbia | 10,805 |

No game can stand up under such slaughter. Florida's supply is not holding up. Florida's sportsmen are becoming alarmed over the decrease in quail in the State. They would be even more so were a complete census of the quail for a single season obtainable. The following excerpts from a letter from a leading citizen and sportsman of Putnam County received late in February of 1939 is typical of many that are reaching the Commission :

"We should have only one dozen instead of fifteen quail, a completely closed season on turkey for at least one year—better two years, a fifty dollar fine for every doe deer that is killed.

"Ban from the woods any gun that carries more than three shells, and better two. With automatic and pump guns being used we soon won't have any quail left. Every year they are becoming scarcer. I have failed to kill the limit any time this season and I am considered a good shot and have a good dog. Something must be done quickly if we have any game left.

"The hunting and fishing business is one of our State's greatest assets, if protected properly. It is what we promise our visitors for their pleasure and money. We should see that they are not disappointed and they will not only come again but bring others. The responsibilities are ours."

The Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish, while making recommendation for Legislative action which will help remedy this situation, is not standing idle awaiting this action. During the past two years a restocking program has been carried on which consisted of trapping quail in overstocked areas and releasing them in areas where the supply was not so abundant but where cover was sufficient to support an additional number. In 1938 the number of quail taken out of the wild from state breeding grounds and released in shot-over areas totalled 8,545. The number taken in 1937 approximated this. Had these been purchased from a breeder they would have cost in round numbers \$33,000.00.

Restocking by this method has its value but it cannot possibly halt the steady decline in the supply of quail. This can only come through reduction in the hunting season, strictly observed limits on bag and possession and favorable conditions under which these choice birds live.

The Wildlife Federation of this State and the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish are recommending that the

open season for taking quail which opens November 20th, close January 31st and that hunting be permitted only on specified days of each week.

CHUKAR PARTRIDGE

During the past several years the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish has been experimenting with the Chukar Partridge, a splendid bird imported from India. While this experiment is still in its rudimentary stage, the Commission feels that this bird will eventually find a place in the wildlife of this State.

DOVES

The mourning dove is a resident and migratory bird in Florida. Regulations for taking doves as fixed by the Federal government is a matter of concern to Florida and other States for doves in the past few seasons begin to show a decline throughout its whole range.

The practice of shooting over baited fields prohibited by the State and Federal Government has been side-stepped by many hunters by planting fields to grain for the purpose of attracting doves to the area. Here men with guns stationed about in the area often take too heavy a toll of these birds. "Planting is difficult to control as it may be included in any legitimate farm program. The dove might be protected in spite of it were shooting within several hundred feet of fields where grain has been planted during the six months prior to the opening of the season prohibited. Such a measure would leave hunting on an equal footing for all and work a hardship on none. Further protection would be provided were possession limited to the bag of a single day. It is difficult to check a bag where possession of two days' limit is allowed.

WILD DUCK

Wild ducks in American reached their zero hour in 1933 when the continental flock estimated at high peak to have exceeded 300,000,000 dropped to a low of 35,000,000. This drop in supply came from over shooting the worst of which was done over baited areas where 90% of the birds killed each season were estimated to have been killed by 25% of the licensed hunters in America. As a result of prohibiting the shooting over baited areas, the reflooding of drained breeding grounds, requirement that guns used in duck shooting be plugged to a 3-shell capacity,



On St. Marks Migratory Bird Refuge. 81,000 Acres Owned by U. S. Government.
Winter Ground for Wild Geese and Ducks.

that the use of other than man power in propelling boats to and on shooting areas, ducks in the 1938-39 season show an encouraging increase.

WILD GEESE

An increase is noted in the supply of wild geese that come to Florida to winter on the St. Marks reservation and adjacent territory, the only region in the State to which they come in numbers. It is comprised of the southeastern part of Franklin County, the entire southern coastal area of Wakulla and Jefferson Counties and extending into Taylor County.

The Federal Government has had not only the support of the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish in maintaining this fine project, but the cooperation of the sportsmen of the immediate area. They recognize the need for protection of bird.

The St. Marks refuge for wild life has twice been increased beyond its original 26,000 acres by purchase of land until it now has an area of 81,000. The last acquisition of 21,000 acres was made in 1938. This embraces practically all of the territory where wild geese winter in Florida. The last area, however, remained open for goose shooting during the season of 1938 and Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of the United States Bureau of Biological Survey, states that this area will remain open to hunters.

COOT, RAILS OR MARSH HENS

The coot which is both a resident and a migratory bird has only been listed as a game bird since 1932. They are not considered very desirable as food and for this reason it seems a poor exhibition of sportsmanship that the coot is now greatly reduced in numbers.

Unlike the coot, the rail or marsh hen is considered a choice food. This bird has been killed in such numbers until only a remnant remains. If marsh hens are hunted in other states as hard as they are hunted in Florida their extermination can be but a matter of a few years.

FUR BEARERS

The decrease in the fur-bearers of the State has been so great during the past ten years that despite the fact that the demand for pelts has been steady, there is a drop in the number of licenses purchased for trapping from 7,658 to 1,499 in 1935, to 2,040 during the year 1936-37, and 1,590 in 1937-38.

RACCOON

The raccoon, Florida's chief fur-bearer, has practically disappeared in some sections of Florida. In all sections the supply is greatly depleted. While the extensive cutting away of woodland near the homes of men and the draining of areas in and about which the raccoon lives have affected the supply to some extent, the long season for trapping which allows the female raccoon carrying unborn young to be taken is the chief cause of loss in numbers.

Florida faces the problem of saving the raccoon as a fur-bearer. A shortened trapping season is strongly urged by the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish. Unless better protection is given this fur-bearer may be checked as "on the way out."

OTTER

Florida protected the otter from 1927 to 1932 during which time none were legally taken. This closed season halted decline and rebuilt the supply but these valuable animals again need protection.

BLACK BEAR

The black bear in Florida, listed as a fur-bearer, is without protection. The entire number in the State given in a recent report by the Federal Government was 300. Were the bear placed on the list of protected animals, the season closed for two years to allow an increase beyond 300 then opened to hunting for a few days each year this animal could be brought back in sufficient numbers to make it a feature of interest in the Florida forests.

ALLIGATOR

Also listed as unprotected in this State is the alligator. Due to extensive traffic in alligator hides this animal has entirely disappeared from many of the streams of the State and is found in limited numbers in others. This traffic should be halted and sufficient protection provided to assure needed seed stock. The Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish recommend a closed season.



"Dead Lakes". 80 Square Miles of Good Fishing.
An Expansion of the Chipola River.

FISH

A more encouraging report can be made of the status of fresh water fish in Florida than has been made of game and furbearers of the State.

In 1935 Florida enacted a law that removed black bass from the list of fresh water fish that might be sold in Florida or shipped out of the State for sale. This same law prohibited transportation of such bass except when carried as personal baggage by a man licensed to take them and limited the number that could be taken to twelve fish.

The stopping of traffic of black bass has been far reaching in its effect. In 1937 further protection was provided black bass by closing the fresh waters of Florida from March 15 to May 20, inclusive. No legislative enactment could provide greater protection for this choice game fish.

For a number of years the law has prohibited the taking of game and food species of fresh water fish until they are large enough to have spawned at least once before being taken. This is provided for by fixing the legal minimum length at which they may be caught.

Legislation closing fresh waters to fishing during the spawning season of crappie, blue gills and other species of bream is greatly needed. Only the closed season suggested would make it possible to enforce this law with any degree of efficiency.

FISH HATCHERIES

Florida's fish hatcheries maintained at Winter Haven and Wewahitchka have supplemented with bass of fingerling size those waters to which they have been released.

During the biennium 1,182,500 fingerling have been placed in lakes and streams in forty-four counties.

In cooperation with the United States Bureau of Fisheries 40,000 fingerling were transported by the Commission from the Welaka Hatchery, now federally owned, and placed in lakes and streams throughout the State.

Fish from the Welaka Hatchery have been distributed by the United States Bureau of Fisheries in Federal Rehabilitation areas in Florida, further augmenting the supply.

Since the transfer of the Welaka Hatchery to the Federal Government, a cooperative plan has been worked out between the Federal Bureau of Fisheries and the University of Florida whereby the fish and quail hatchery at Welaka can be used as an observation and training project for students from the University who wish to elect such work as a part of their course of study.

The Federal Government at the present has completed and is stocking a fresh water fish hatchery in Jackson County on a small stream which flows into the Chipola River. It is expected that this will be an efficient producing plant. Florida will be in line for a share of the fish from this hatchery.

The output from these State and Federal Hatcheries has been greatly supplemented by the large number of brood bass taken from lakes and streams with lowered water levels and transported to nearby waters whose depth offered a place of safety for these fish that would have otherwise perished.

The cooperation of organized sportsmen and of public officials in this work has been exceptionally fine and has greatly multiplied results.

LAKE IAMONIA DAM

An outstanding example of conservation work with fish is the dam recently constructed by the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County across one arm of Lake Iamonia. The basins of many of Florida's large lakes were formed by the sinking of the limestone which underlies the surface. It is not



Earth Dam. 1100 Feet Long. 20 Feet High, Holding Waters of Lake Iamonia. Leon County.

unusual for a lake of this type under certain conditions to disappear at the lowest point of the basin through a small opening that allows the water to flow into underground waters. Several of the large lakes of such formation in the Tallahassee region have emptied themselves into underground streams or basins within the past ten years. When a lake of this type disappears, it is generally supposed that it will refill in one or two years. Events may not always follow this course. Lake Iamonia, twelve miles in length and from one to two miles in width, has according to reports of those whose homes have been in that immediate section for many years, emptied its waters four times within the last sixty years. This lake has in its northern extremity a very large limestone basin or sink near which lie two or three similar but smaller sinks. When the lake is at high level the water at the large sink is approximately forty-five feet in depth.

The last two occasions on which Lake Iamonia emptied itself was 1935 and partially in January of 1939. When it was known that the lake was on its way out, the County Commissioners of Leon County got busy. They hurriedly erected a dam that separated the basin with its sink from the greater portion of the lake lying west of it. This dam of earth is 1,100 feet long, 20 feet high, 96 feet wide at the base and 12 feet wide on top.

Progress on the work was rapid and it was possible to hold back waters covering an area of approximately sixty acres. When the basin was emptying the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish called the superintendent of the State Fish

Hatchery at Winter Haven to direct the seining of the basin. With the assistance of several of the Conservation Officers, approximately 40,000 or more bass and bream were removed from the basin and used in restocking what remained of Lake Iamonia above the dam and a number of nearby lakes and streams.

The surface area of Lake Iamonia has since been increased by heavy rainfall. This lake provides not only fine fishing waters but is an excellent duck lake in winter months.

The saving of Lake Iamonia and salvaging of the fish from the basin, quickly done at a moderate cost should make these waters safe for some time to come.

WILDLIFE BREEDING GROUNDS

Filling the need in game restocking in practically the same manner in which the Fish Hatcheries serve in restocking our fish supply, is the Wildlife Breeding Ground. Under authorization given to the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish in Sections 4 and 7 of Chapter 13644, Acts of 1929, to close to hunting, trapping and fishing, with the consent of the Governor, selected areas for wildlife breeding grounds, the Commission is maintaining in Florida today 137 closed areas. In addition to these there are eleven wildlife breeding grounds closed by legislative act, giving a total of 148. While the State does not have sufficient revenue to adequately police these areas, Conservation Officers make every effort to protect them. Citizens of Florida living in or adjacent to wildlife preserves have gradually come to appreciate their worth. The increase in wild life in and about these breeding grounds has convinced them of the values of these areas.

Courts throughout Florida view with little tolerance invasion of these areas by a hunter or trapper. As a result wildlife breeding grounds in Florida are proving an effective agency for maintaining and upbuilding wildlife in the State.

In selecting such areas the Commission uses the best game land that can be found and those best stocked. From time to time the Commission transfers as breeding stock the surplus of game in these State Breeding Grounds, placing it in shot out areas where it is greatly needed. During the two years of 1937 and 1938 Florida placed 500 turkeys from half-wild stock in 21 breeding grounds of the State where they made a good increase. From the surplus of quail in breeding grounds 17,090 have been taken during this same period and distributed to depleted areas.

Hunters participating in the hunt in the Ocala National Forest were required to secure a special permit costing \$2.00 which was not valid unless accompanied by the proper hunting license.

Hunters could purchase but one permit and were limited to one buck deer each. Mutilation of a deer to destroy marks of sex was prohibited and it was required that deer must be checked before they could be removed from the forest and before dismemberment if division was made in camp. Hunters were checked in and out of the forest.

When entering the area a red arm band was given to each hunter. This band was to be surrendered when a deer had been killed. If the hunter wished to remain in the area longer he was issued a white band to indicate his right to remain but to show he was not permitted to use fire-arms.

Hunters camping within the area were required to use designated camping grounds. The use of dogs was limited to three at any one time by a party. It was required that dogs wear a tag showing name of his owner and the number of his owner's hunting license.

Cars were subject to inspection when leaving the area.

These regulations appeared on the back of the permits and a hunter purchasing a permit was required to sign a statement that he had read and understood same. This hunt, in one of the best deer areas in the State of Florida, was participated in by 1,144 men from 32 of the 67 counties of Florida and by hunters from eight States other than Florida.

Under close checking it showed that in the open area of 197,000 acres only 124 legal deer were killed. One buck deer was the limit fixed for a hunter. But 10.8 of the 1,144 men hunting secured a buck.

Of the deer killed 68 were in the northern part of the forest on an area of 137,000 acres, that means an average of one deer taken to every 2,000 acres. In the southern part of the area of 60,000 acres, 56 deer were killed, or an average of one deer to every 1,000 acres.

The following tabulation of bucks killed as reported by the United States Forest Service which shows the number taken on each of the eighteen hunting days, the total number and the number of antler points on each buck taken is of special interest. It was submitted with the report of the hunt prepared by the United States Forest Service.

TABULATION OF LEGAL BUCKS KILLED

| Dates Killed | Total Killed | NUMBER OF ANTLER POINTS | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | **2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | X |
| 12- 1 | 33 | 15 | --- | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 1 | --- | --- | 1* |
| 3 | 26 | 10 | --- | 5 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 | --- | --- | --- | 1 | --- |
| 4 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 2 | --- | --- | --- | 2 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | --- | --- | --- | 1 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 8 | 2 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 1 | --- | --- | --- | 1 | --- | --- |
| 10 | 7 | 3 | --- | 2 | 1 | --- | 1 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 11 | 4 | 1 | --- | --- | 2 | --- | --- | --- | 1 | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 13 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 15 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 17 | 4 | 2 | --- | 1 | --- | --- | --- | 1 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 18 | 2 | 2 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 20 | 2 | 2 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 22 | 3 | 1 | --- | --- | --- | 1 | --- | --- | --- | 1 | --- | --- | --- |
| 24 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | --- | --- | 1 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 25 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 27 | 5 | 4 | --- | 1 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 29 | 10 | 4 | --- | 1 | --- | --- | --- | 2 | --- | 2 | 1 | --- | --- |
| 31 | 10 | 5 | --- | 2 | --- | --- | 1 | 2 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 15 days | 124 | 53 | 3 | 19 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 17 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 |

*Large buck, antlers shed.

**Includes buck fawns.

An analysis of this tabulation shows how many young bucks are being killed.

Mr. E. E. Ripper, Wildlife Assistant, United States Forest Service, in reporting the hunt, points to the killing of 59 deer in the first two hunting days of the open season and but 65 deer in the remaining 16 days, as evidence of the depleted condition of the deer herd in the forest.

"The total number of buck fawns killed is not known. Two were checked at one of the stations. The proportion of spike bucks killed, 43%, is high and from the standpoints of good management and efficient utilization, is unsatisfactory. With few exceptions spike bucks are immature animals and the heads can scarcely be considered as satisfactory trophies.

"The antlers of several bucks were damaged or entirely broken off. A few of these cases were the result of damage with buckshot. The others were older

breaks, the result of fighting during breeding season in October. The antlers of most of the mature deer were relatively small, both in diameter and spread, as a result of the sterile, mineral-deficient soil of most of the area."

Mr. Ripper states further, in preparing the report of the hunt which was approved by Mr. Frank A. Albert, Forest Supervisor:

"This initial regulated hunt has proven that the present status of the refuge must be maintained for the next several years. The deer herd on the balance of the management area is far below carrying capacity and must be built up through a period of restricted utilization. If the refuge, which contains the nucleus of the herd is hunted in the immediate future, this period of recovery will be increased considerable. Hunting the refuge in the near future will be considered a breach of faith by all parties concerned and interested in conservation."

He also states:

"That the management of an area hunted by dogs must differ from that of one still-hunted. Under average conditions a deer flushed in still hunting is disturbed but little and does not move a great distance. In contrast a dogged deer is thoroughly disturbed and may move a considerable distance. The chances of the deer in an area being exterminated by hunting with dogs are very high unless a portion of the area is naturally impenetrable or protected as a refuge. Otherwise the herd will be driven about, scattered widely, and decimated very rapidly."

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

After having taken stock of the material on hand with which the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish must work, it is well at this point to give thought to plans for future development of our Conservation Program in Florida.

The Legislature of 1937 seemed strongly in favor of better conservation of wildlife. There were some 60 bills passed regarding game and fresh water fish, most of them definitely in the interest of better conservation. There were six general bills enacted affecting the work of the Commission of Game and



"Believe It or Not"—A Breakfast of Angle Worms for Friend Black Bass of Crooked Lake, Eustis, Florida, Where He Frequently Feeds from the Hand of Good Neighbor Nelson.

Fresh Water Fish. Three of these were to complete the transfer of the Welaka Fish Hatchery to the Federal Government, a step that was taken because of lack of sufficient funds to operate this hatchery. The fourth measure authorized the cooperation by the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish with the U. S. Forestry Service. The fifth measure prohibited the carrying of fire arms within the national Forests without a special permit from the Chief Forester in charge. And last,

but by no means least was the general measure which provided a closed season on black bass during a part of the spawning time. These measures have already been discussed.

Among measures greatly needed which were lost during the 1937 session was a bill that would have required hunters to leave marks of sex identification on the carcass of deer killed until the deer could be checked by a Conservation Officer. Another measure would have required the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish to furnish each resident in a County an identification certificate whereby it would be possible for Conservation Officers to prevent residents of one County from fishing in another County without license or to prevent non-residents from fishing without license. The protection of the fast disappearing alligator was sought but this bill was also lost.

While a great deal has already been accomplished, much more remains to be done.

PITTMAN ROBERTSON ACT

Possibly the most forward step in conservation was the passage of the Pittman-Robertson Act by Congress during 1937. This Act authorizes the Federal Government to appropriate revenue not to exceed the annual income from the ten per cent excise tax on arms and ammunition used for sporting purposes to aid in a wildlife restoration program. During the present fiscal year there was included in the budget for the U. S. Department of Agriculture the amount of \$1,000,000 with which to begin work under the Pittman-Robertson Act. It is expected that the general revenue from this sum in the years following will approximate not less than \$3,250,000 annually. This revenue will be apportioned among the States on a basis of the total area of the State and the number of hunting licenses sold.

FLORIDA'S PITTMAN-ROBERTSON PROJECT

Under the provisions of the Pittman-Robertson Act, the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish of the State of Florida is permitted to avail itself of funds allocated to Florida provided certain requirements are met.

Only those States which by legislative act provide that all revenue from the sale of hunting licenses by the State shall be wholly used for wildlife protection and restoration may participate in the revenue provided under the Pittman-Robertson Act.

Section 13, Chapter 13644, Acts of 1929, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 17016, Acts of 1935, provides that the State Game Fund shall be used in carrying out the provisions of the Florida law regarding conservation of wildlife and "for no other purpose."

It is further required that the funds received from Pittman-Robertson funds be supplemented by additional amount from the State, equal to one-third the revenue received from Federal sources.

Florida's first apportionment under the \$1,000,000 provided for beginning this work was \$12,239.49. To this the State added \$4,079.83 to initiate projects under this Act. When the full amount of tax derived under the provisions of the Pittman-Robertson Act is made available, it is expected that Florida will receive a total of approximately \$39,000 from the Federal Government, to which the State will add approximately \$13,000.

In addition to the requirements mentioned above a State must also definitely assent by legislative act to the provisions of the Pittman-Robertson Act. The Act permits the Governor of the State to give such assent until such time as the Legislature of the State shall be in session. Florida's Governor has given this assent.

The general scope of the Pittman-Robertson Act allows the purchase of land for wildlife restoration purposes, development of research projects, establishment of wildlife management areas, surveys of breeding stock of game and fur-bearers on hand, purchase of needed breeding stock, and other projects in harmony with the general purpose of the Act, "wildlife restoration."

Since none of the Federal funds available from an excise tax are derived from a tax on fishing equipment, none of the Pittman-Robertson funds may be devoted to restoration of fish.

Florida has submitted a Preliminary Project Proposal for a Research Project which has been approved by the Federal Government. This Preliminary Proposal plans to cover a period of five years during which wildlife management areas will be set up in each Congressional District within the State where a full time wildlife technician will carry on a well planned program of wildlife restoration.

The Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish is looking forward with much hope to great results from the Florida Pittman-Robertson Project.

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

As was shown in the chart showing expenditure of the funds derived from the sale of licenses, by far the major division of conservation in Florida is the Law Enforcement Division.

Florida is divided into Five Congressional Districts. From each of these Congressional Districts a Commissioner is appointed to serve without remuneration. In each District also is a Chief Conservation Officer who is primarily responsible for the enforcement of our game and fish laws within his District. Under his guidance and instruction are the several Conservation Officers who serve in the field.

THE CONSERVATION OFFICER

At the present time Florida has a total of 108 Conservation Officers working full time. These men have been carefully selected and trained for the work which they carry on.

All Conservation Officers are required to submit a weekly report of his activities. This report contains a daily record of territory covered and number of miles traveled together with the number of arrests made, licenses checked and a detailed statement of all work performed in line of duty each day.

All arrests made are reported to the office on the day they occur. Blanks are furnished the field force for this purpose. When the case has been disposed of, a Final Disposition Report is made to the office showing the amount of fine, if any, and if not, the final action of the Court. In some of the counties of this State, the Conservation Officer is immediately presented with a check covering his costs in the case and this is transmitted to the State Office along with the Final Disposition Report. In other counties, the cost allowed the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish is paid into the Fine and Forfeiture Fund of the County and paid to the Commission by warrant from the Clerk.

It would be unfair to our Conservation Officers to refer to them simply as Law Enforcement Officers. They are more than this. They are the legally constituted guardians of our capital stock of wildlife and the salesmen in the business of Conservation.

Quite often the Conservation Officer is called upon to appear on conservation programs of various organizations. Just how good a salesman he is, will be shown by the increase of interest in matters pertaining to conservation in his immediate territory.

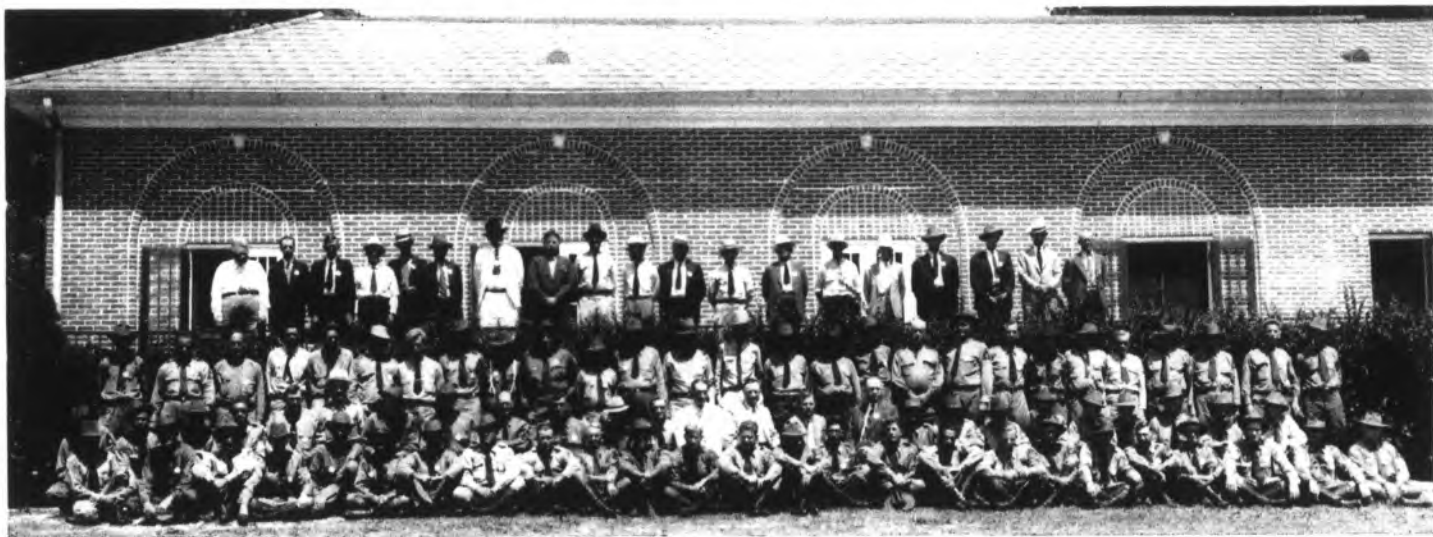
A Conservation Officer is not permitted to work a stated number of hours per day. Quite often in times of drought or unprecedented rains, he is called upon to remain out all night rescuing fish from low waters and transplanting them either to the Hatcheries or to other bodies of water or watching over other species of wildlife which have been forced to foreign territory by the flooded condition of their natural habitat.

He is called on numbers of occasions to leave his own home territory and assist some fellow officer in another district when conditions demand such action. A Conservation Officer must first of all be a Gentleman. He is required to conduct himself as such at home and in the field, in the court room and in the club. He must know the laws and how to enforce them. He must know the habits and haunts of all wildlife and how to protect them in times of danger. Our Conservation Officers are furnished standard uniforms of forestry green, together with identification badges, hats and boots. The use of these uniforms has gone a long way toward creating a better appreciation by the public of the work being done by these officers.

These men need the help of the general public if the work of Conservation is to be properly carried on. The Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish urges you to get acquainted with this body of men and cooperate with them in every way. You will find them eager to work with you.

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR CONSERVATION OFFICERS

As a part of the Conservation program in Florida, the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish each year conducts a school for its Conservation Officers. These schools have been held through the cooperation of the Extension Division of the University of Florida and are filling a long felt need in this field work. The programs give special consideration to field problems of the officers. Those versed in handling such problems in conservation and kindred fields of work are secured as instructors. During the last school, Honorable I. T. Quinn, formerly Conservation Commissioner for the State of Alabama, but now holding an important position with the National Wildlife Federation, was the principal speaker. It was during the last school that the first manual for Conservation Officers was prepared and presented. The manual was printed shortly afterward and is furnished to each officer employed in the field.



Conservation Officers Annual Training School, University of Florida, May 29-30-31, 1938.

It is hoped that the continuation of these yearly schools will better prepare our Conservation Officers for the work before them and also help to enlighten the general public as to the problems with which they are confronted.

CASES IN COURT

During the first year of the biennium which this report covers, there were 581 arrests made for various game law violations. Of this number 385 were convicted, 57 acquitted and 139 left pending. During the second year of the biennium there were 781 arrests, 516 convictions, 82 acquittals and 183 cases pending.

In many states amounts levied as fines for law violations are allocated to the State Game Fund to be expended to replace the wild life illegally taken. In Florida the fine goes into the county fine and forfeiture fund.

Under the Florida law the arresting fees allowed for the service of Conservation Officers in cases of law violations are comparable to those allowed the Sheriff's force. Revenue from this source goes into the State Game Fund. The total amount during the biennium was \$5,017.57.

The work of an officer is not judged by the number of arrests which he makes but rather by cooperation in law observance and enforcement which is given in his respective area and also by the per cent of convictions.

There is a strong spirit of cooperation among the members of the law enforcement division and in a great number of Counties in the State the relationship existing between the men of this division and the county enforcement officers of their respective counties is very gratifying. A stronger support of enforcement of conservation law is given by the courts of Florida than in former years as is shown by the extent of the penalty the courts place upon law violators. This is the strongest possible endorsement of the enforcement work of the Conservation Officers.

EDUCATION

Knowledge of wild life is recognized in every State as the fundamental basis upon which work for conservation of wild-life must be built. For this reason conservation education is receiving in every State increased emphasis as an important branch of work to be developed and sustained in branches of

government directing wildlife conservation. Florida has consistently maintained such a division of work since the work was undertaken in 1925.

Members of the Commission, the Executive Secretary and the Conservation Officers hold a strategic place in the development of this program. Their constant contact with the public opens the way for fine service in this field. The Florida organization has been active along this line.

EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL

Chapter 17030, Acts of 1935, Laws of Florida, requires the Commission to prepare material on conservation of wild life to be submitted to the State Department of Public Instruction to be considered for publication by that Department for use in schools. During 1938 the education division of the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish prepared material for a bulletin on Conservation of Wildlife Resources in Florida which has been printed. This bulletin has been placed in libraries in public schools as research material and is available to teachers upon request to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Other material of educational value to those interested in conservation is a compilation of laws affecting wildlife in Florida and a summary of these prepared in leaflet form. Another leaflet summarizing all hunting regulations effective in Florida was printed just prior to the opening of the hunting season. A folder "Florida Sport Fishing" illustrated and printed in two colors is also available to the public. This folder has been used to great extent by Chambers of Commerce in Florida both as information regarding sport fishing in inland waters and as advertising matter.

Of special value along education lines with the general public, is the contact which has been maintained with various civic organizations and clubs throughout the State. A series of articles issued through the columns of the Florida Club Woman, a special conservation program prepared for the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and meeting with prize winning boys and girls connected with 4-H Club work have contributed to this program.

In addition to the above, numerous invitations to appear at luncheon meetings and meetings of County Fish and Game organizations have been accepted. These have afforded excellent opportunities for educational work by means of advising these organizations of the work carried on by the Commission.



Sixty in Possession, as Fixed by Florida Law. Section 36, Chapter 13644, Acts of 1929. Supply in Lakes and Streams Cannot Hold Up Under This Drain.

PRIZE ESSAY CONTEST

Of particular note is the prize essay contest sponsored by the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish as a part of the program for observance of Wildlife Restoration Week.

This contest offered an opportunity for boys and girls in both Junior and Senior High Schools of the State to prepare papers on subjects submitted to them.

Study outlines were prepared by the education division of the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish and offered along with a list of available reference material to assist the students wishing to submit essays.

The Department of Public Instruction cooperated heartily and assisted in making plans for the final judging of essays submitted. The prize winners were announced just prior to the time for holding the school for Conservation Officers in Gainesville and in addition to receiving the offered prizes, the winners were given a trip to Gainesville where presentation of

the various prizes was an outstanding feature of the school program.

The following boys and girls were prize winners:

Miss Catherine Pomeroy, St. Petersburg High School, St. Petersburg, Florida.

Miss Sadie Gerald, Williston High School, Williston, Florida.

Miss Elizabeth Stroup, St. Cloud High School, St. Cloud, Florida.

Mr. Jerry Finklestein, Duncan U. Fletcher High School, Jacksonville Beach, Florida.

Miss Hilda Fay Van Deinse, Orlando High School, Orlando, Florida.

Mr. Kenneth H. Tuttle, Hernando High School, Brooksville, Florida.

Mr. Carl Gilley, Williston High School, Williston, Florida.

Mr. Charles Whitehurst, Bay County High School, Panama City, Florida.

Mr. Lee Scott, Mainland High School, Daytona Beach, Florida.

MOVING PICTURE

During the past year the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish has had prepared a motion picture depicting the wildlife of Florida woods and waters. This reel, prepared by a well known sportsman and sportswriter will go a long way toward informing the public along conservation lines. It is planned to use this film not only in community and club meetings but to offer it to the schools of Florida. The Commission has also purchased a movie projector to be used at points where such equipment is not already available.

FAIR EXHIBITS

Since its organization in 1935 the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish has been represented each season at a number of fairs in the State. It is through this medium that a great deal of educational work has been done.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Another forward step in Conservation has been made with the organization in Florida of a State sportsmen's federation. The Florida Wildlife Federation as it stands today has affiliated with it twenty-four sportsmen's organizations. It is ex-

pected that many others will become affiliated with this State Federation within a short time.

Mr. Fred C. Collins of Daytona Beach is President of the Florida Wildlife Federation. Mr. Merlin Mitchell of Orlando is Executive Secretary of the Organization and maintains headquarters offices in Orlando.

WILDLIFE RESTORATION WEEK

The week of March 20th to 26th, 1938 was set aside by Proclamation by the President of the United States as National Wildlife Week. In keeping with the President's request for cooperation in this movement, the Governor of Florida issued a similar proclamation declaring the week of March 20th to 26th as Florida Wildlife Week, and calling for its proper observance.

Dr. F. G. Garner, Chairman of the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish, was made Chairman of the Wildlife Restoration Week program in Florida, with Mr. Merlin Mitchell, Executive Secretary of the Florida Wildlife Federation, as Vice-Chairman.

With the full cooperation of the Conservation Officers a program for the sale of wildlife restoration stamps was carried on. When records of this work were completed a very creditable showing had been made in this State.

Other features of the observance of Wildlife Week in Florida were programs on conservation made possible through the various civic organizations of the State, the full cooperation of both press and radio and the widespread interest in matters pertaining to conservation evidenced in every section of the State. The success of this first observance of Wildlife Week leads us to believe that much can be accomplished in the future by the continued observance of Wildlife Week.

CHANGES IN PERSONNEL OF THE COMMISSION OF GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH

June 30th, 1937, upon the expiration of the term of Honorable George L. Henderson, Commissioner of the Third Congressional District, Honorable W. Lamar Gammon, of Marianna, was appointed to succeed him.

July 26th, 1937, Honorable Henry Wiesenfeld, Chairman and Commissioner of the Second Congressional District, whose term

expired, was succeeded by Honorable Thompson S. Baker of Jacksonville.

March 28th, 1938, Honorable John S. Clardy was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Honorable H. L. McDonald.

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION

The law requires the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish to meet quarterly at the State Capital and permits called meetings to be held in other parts of the State. In 1937 Quarterly meetings were held on March 22nd, June 21st, September 20th and December 20th. During this year called meetings were held on January 16th, April 17th, July 26th, August 18th and December 10th.

During 1938 regular quarterly meetings were held on March 28th, June 13th, September 19th and December 19th, with called meetings on January 24th, July 25th and November 4th.

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**COMMISSION OF GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
July 1, 1936 to June 30, 1937**

| RECEIPTS | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Balance on hand June 30th, 1936 | | | \$49,176.66 |
| Hunting Licenses | \$121,063.00 | | |
| Fishing Licenses | 52,298.50 | | |
| Trapping Licenses | 6,875.00 | | |
| Alien Hunting Licenses | 50.00 | | |
| | | \$180,286.50 | |
| COMMERCIAL LICENSES: | | | |
| Retail Fish Dealers | 1,945.00 | | |
| Wholesale Fish Dealers | 1,250.00 | | |
| Commercial Boats | 262.00 | | |
| Boats for Hire | 1,531.50 | | |
| Wholesale Fur Dealers—Agents | 1,485.00 | | |
| Local Fur Dealers | 150.00 | | |
| Game Farm Licenses | 90.00 | | |
| Guide Licenses | 120.00 | | |
| | | 6,833.50 | |
| MISCELLANEOUS: | | | |
| Court Costs | 1,982.12 | | |
| Confiscated Nets and Boats | 678.00 | | |
| Confiscated Fish | 18.93 | | |
| Confiscated Furs and Hides | 96.25 | | |
| Sale of Old Truck at Hatchery | 25.00 | | |
| | | 2,800.30 | |
| Previous Year's Licenses | 2,821.50 | 2,821.50 | 192,741.80 |
| Florida Bird Life | 102.00 | 102.00 | 102.00 |
| TOTAL | | | \$242,020.46 |
| DISBURSEMENTS | | | |
| ADMINISTRATION: | | | |
| Office Salaries | 7,785.00 | | |
| Traveling Executive Secretary | 1,148.65 | | |
| Traveling Commissioners | 1,140.01 | | |
| Miscellaneous | 1,067.84 | | |
| Office Supplies | 395.38 | | |
| Postage, Telephone, Telegrams | 994.14 | | |
| Printing and Stationery | 2,440.97 | | |
| Premium on Bonds | 10.00 | | |
| Delegates to Convention | 88.95 | | |
| | | 15,070.94 | |
| FIELD EXPENSE: | | | |
| Salaries of Conservation Officers | 80,419.94 | | |
| Traveling Expense of Conservation Officers | 58,067.58 | | |
| Legal Expense | 793.24 | | |
| Miscellaneous | 2,124.81 | | |
| Premium on Compensation Insurance | 2,223.50 | | |
| Purchase and Maintenance of Equipment | 2,204.08 | | |
| Rewards Paid | 970.00 | | |
| Restocking | 5,536.20 | | |
| | | 152,341.35 | |

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

July 1, 1936 to June 30, 1937

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| DISBURSEMENTS (Continued) | | | |
| MAGAZINE AND EDUCATION: | | | |
| Salaries..... | \$ 2,758.26 | | |
| Traveling..... | 141.71 | | |
| Miscellaneous..... | 62.14 | | |
| | | \$ 2,962.11 | |
| WEWAHITCHKA HATCHERY: | | | |
| Salaries..... | 2,100.00 | | |
| Light and Power..... | 75.02 | | |
| Supplies..... | 28.15 | | |
| Truck Hire..... | 60.00 | | |
| Gasoline and Oil..... | 177.99 | | |
| | | 2,441.16 | |
| WINTER HAVEN HATCHERY: | | | |
| Salaries..... | 1,375.00 | | |
| Traveling..... | 381.07 | | |
| Labor..... | 1,622.00 | | |
| Supplies..... | 209.57 | | |
| Truck Operations..... | 401.03 | | |
| Construction..... | 660.94 | | |
| Truck Purchase..... | 685.92 | | |
| Gasoline and Oil..... | 877.80 | | |
| Insurance on Truck..... | 167.80 | | |
| | | 6,381.13 | |
| Fair Expense..... | 61.30 | 61.30 | \$179,257.99 |
| Refunds..... | 10.00 | 10.00 | |
| Remittance Florida Bird Life..... | 97.84 | 97.84 | |
| | | | 107.84 |
| CASH ACCOUNT: | | | |
| Balance in State Treasury..... | 47,719.16 | | |
| Balance in Lewis State Bank..... | 12,113.27 | | |
| Due from County Judges..... | 2,822.20 | | |
| | | 62,654.63 | 62,654.63 |
| TOTAL..... | | | \$242,020.46 |

COMMISSION OF GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
 July 1, 1937 to June 30, 1938

| RECEIPTS | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Balance on Hand June 30th, 1937 | | | \$62,651.63 |
| Hunting Licenses | \$131,844.00 | | |
| Fishing Licenses | 62,316.50 | | |
| Trapping Licenses | 5,112.00 | | |
| | | \$199,272.50 | |
| COMMERCIAL LICENSES: | | | |
| Retail Fish Dealer | 1,970.00 | | |
| Wholesale Fish Dealer | 800.00 | | |
| Commercial Boats | 278.00 | | |
| Boats for Hire | 1,791.50 | | |
| Wholesale Fur Dealers and Agents | 925.00 | | |
| Local Fur Dealers | 110.00 | | |
| Game Farms | 85.00 | | |
| Guides | 50.00 | | |
| | | 6,009.50 | |
| MISCELLANEOUS: | | | |
| Court Costs | 3,035.45 | | |
| Confiscated Nets and Boats | 202.32 | | |
| Confiscated Furs | 4.75 | | |
| Sale of Old Equipment | 80.05 | | |
| | | 3,322.57 | |
| Previous Year's Licenses | 376.50 | | |
| Refund from Florida Power-Light Company for Power Line | 1,200.00 | | |
| | | 1,576.50 | |
| Sale of Florida Bird Books | | | 210,181.07 |
| | | | 18.00 |
| TOTAL | | | \$272,853.70 |
| DISBURSEMENTS | | | |
| ADMINISTRATION: | | | |
| Office Salaries | \$ 9,005.84 | | |
| Traveling, Executive Secretary | 1,158.35 | | |
| Traveling, Commissioners | 1,238.69 | | |
| Delegates to Convention | 343.20 | | |
| Special Expense | 186.00 | | |
| Miscellaneous | 1,088.64 | | |
| Office Supplies | 320.56 | | |
| Postage, Telephone and Telegraph | 1,140.02 | | |
| Printing and Stationery | 2,655.55 | | |
| Premium on Bonds | 620.00 | | |
| Fair Expense | 224.77 | | |
| | | 17,981.62 | |

RECEIFTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

July 1, 1937 to June 30, 1938

| DISBURSEMENTS (Continued) | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|
| FIELD EXPENSE | | | |
| Salaries Conservation Officers | \$100,066.65 | | |
| Traveling, Conservation Officers | 69,498.75 | | |
| Legal Expense | 474.45 | | |
| Miscellaneous | 1,08.74 | | |
| Premium on Compensation Insurance | 1,584.67 | | |
| Equipment Purchased | 3,929.78 | | |
| Maintenance of Equipment | 607.49 | | |
| Rewards | 1,525.00 | | |
| Resocking | 3,718.36 | | |
| | | \$182,613.89 | |
| EDUCATION: | | | |
| Salaries | 1,800.00 | | |
| Traveling | 49.16 | | |
| Miscellaneous | 380.5 | | |
| Wild Life Restoration Week | 449.16 | | |
| School of Instruction | 530.82 | | |
| Moving Pictures | 750.00 | | |
| | | 3,959.69 | |
| HATCHERIES: | | | |
| Special Expense, Welaka | 519.74 | | 519.74 |
| WEWAHITCHKA HATCHERY: | | | |
| Salaries | 2,208.45 | | |
| Labor | 37.00 | | |
| Light and Power | 51.18 | | |
| Supplies | 71.95 | | |
| Truck Hire | 8.00 | | |
| Equipment | 121.1 | | |
| Gas and Oil | 198.40 | | |
| | | 2,694.14 | |
| WINTER HAVEN HATCHERY: | | | |
| Salaries | 1,500.00 | | |
| Traveling | 418.62 | | |
| Labor | 1,638.00 | | |
| Supplies | 195.87 | | |
| Truck Operations | 398.75 | | |
| Gas and Oil | 925.12 | | |
| Insurance on Truck | 170.80 | | |
| | | 5,247.16 | |
| Remittance for Florida Bird Books | 17.14 | | |
| Refund | 7.00 | | |
| | | 23.14 | \$213,039.8 |
| CASH ACCOUNT: | | | |
| Balance in State Treasury | 49,679.78 | | |
| Balance in Lewis State Bank | 9,732.54 | | |
| Due from County Judges | 402.00 | | |
| | | 59,814.32 | 59,814.32 |
| TOTAL | | | \$272,853.70 |

COMMISSION OF GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

July 1, 1938 to December 31, 1938

| RECEIPTS | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Balance on hand June 30th, 1938 | | | \$59,814.32 |
| Hunting Licenses | \$110,266.00 | | |
| Fishing Licenses | 20,412.00 | | |
| Trapping Licenses | 638.00 | | |
| | | \$131,316.00 | |
| COMMERCIAL LICENSES: | | | |
| Retail Fish Dealer | 775.00 | | |
| Wholesale Fish Dealer | 250.00 | | |
| Commercial Boat | 92.00 | | |
| Boat for Hire | 639.00 | | |
| Wholesale Fur Dealers—Agents | 375.00 | | |
| Local Fur Dealer | 90.00 | | |
| Game Farm | 55.00 | | |
| Guide | 80.00 | | |
| Alien License | 100.00 | | |
| | | 2,456.00 | |
| MISCELLANEOUS: | | | |
| U.S. Forest Permits | 1,400.00 | | |
| Court Costs | 1,619.31 | | |
| Confiscated Nets | 25.00 | | |
| Confiscated Furs and Hides | 1.35 | | |
| Previous Year's Licenses | 2,757.00 | | |
| | | 5,802.66 | 139,574.66 |
| TOTAL | | | \$199,388.98 |
| DISBURSEMENTS | | | |
| ADMINISTRATION: | | | |
| Office Salaries | 4,600.00 | | |
| Traveling, Executive Secretary | 505.00 | | |
| Traveling, Commissioners | 506.18 | | |
| Special Expense | 80.00 | | |
| Miscellaneous | 468.54 | | |
| Office Supplies | 197.20 | | |
| Postage, Telephone, and Telegraph | 523.66 | | |
| Printing and Stationery | 1,763.05 | | |
| Premium on Bonds | 30.00 | | |
| | | 9,033.63 | |
| FIELD EXPENSE: | | | |
| Salaries, Conservation Officers | 52,136.89 | | |
| Traveling, Conservation Officers | 29,180.09 | | |
| Legal Expense | 65.00 | | |
| Miscellaneous | 840.73 | | |
| Premium on Compensation Insurance | 2,359.52 | | |
| Maintenance of Equipment | 558.61 | | |
| Rewards Paid | 525.00 | | |
| Restocking | 450.00 | | |
| | | 86,115.84 | |

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
July 1, 1938 to December 31, 1938

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|-----------|--------------|
| DISBURSEMENTS (Continued) | | | |
| EDUCATION: | | | |
| Salaries..... | \$ | 900.00 | |
| Traveling..... | | 41.65 | |
| Miscellaneous..... | | 200.48 | |
| Moving Pictures..... | | 350.00 | |
| | \$ | | 1,492.13 |
| HATCHERIES: | | | |
| Wewahitchka Hatchery— | | | |
| Salaries..... | | 1,067.50 | |
| Labor..... | | 212.75 | |
| Light and Power..... | | 17.50 | |
| Supplies..... | | 56.17 | |
| Truck Hire..... | | 78.32 | |
| Equipment Purchased..... | | 15.00 | |
| Gas and Oil..... | | 89.55 | |
| Construction..... | | 58.00 | |
| | | | 1,694.79 |
| Winter Haven Hatchery— | | | |
| Salaries..... | | 750.00 | |
| Travelin..... | | 138.60 | |
| Labor..... | | 1,056.25 | |
| Supplies..... | | 211.91 | |
| Truck Operation..... | | 299.28 | |
| Gas and Oil..... | | 328.15 | |
| | | | 2,784.19 |
| | | | \$101,120.58 |
| CASH ACCOUNT: | | | |
| Balance in State Treasury..... | | 53,159.20 | |
| Balance in Lewis State Bank..... | | 44,976.70 | |
| Due from County Judges..... | | 132.50 | |
| | | | 98,268.40 |
| | | | 98,268.40 |
| TOTAL..... | | | \$199,388.98 |



Bass Waters Awaiting You in Florida.

IN MEMORIAM

This report would not be complete were it not to pay a final tribute to the men who have served with this Department and have now gone to their reward. During the biennium closing December 31st, 1938, the following State Conservation Officers crossed the Great Divide passing into the beyond:

J. H. Girardeau, Jefferson County, June 20, 1937.

Will C. Smith, Madison County, September 5, 1937.

D. A. McCombs, Santa Rosa County, October 26, 1938.

H. K. Chitty, Holmes County, April 7, 1938.

Men of this service are pickets at the outposts, on guard, alone, protecting the helpless, advancing a cause—Conservation of Wildlife. "The good men do lives after them."

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